

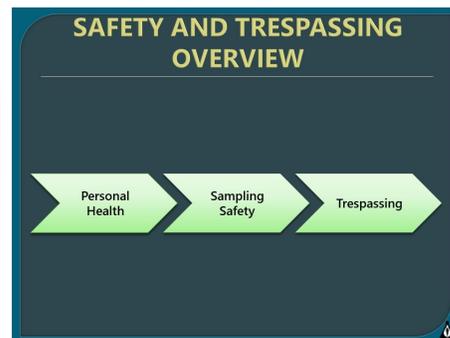
# Chapter 4

## Safety and Trespass



Your safety is important. In this chapter, you will learn how to keep yourself healthy and safe when monitoring a stream site. Specifically, you will explore safety responsibilities in three main areas:

- Precautions for your personal health
- Sampling safety protocol
- Trespassing



### PERSONAL HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

- Check with your doctor or local health department for appropriate immunizations and health/safety guidelines
- Foot Protection
- Life Jacket
- Bug repellent



Personal Health   Sampling Safety   Trespassing

### GUARD AGAINST PATHOGENS

- Avoid water contact with:
  - Eyes
  - Nose
  - Mouth
  - Open cuts



Personal Health   Sampling Safety   Trespassing

### THINK SAFE

- Use common sense and be aware of your surroundings
- DO NOT put yourself or anyone else in jeopardy
- DO NOT enter a stream when the current is swift from flooding
- Bring a buddy! Make sure you tell someone where you are sampling and when you will return



Personal Health   Sampling Safety   Trespassing

## Personal Health

Keeping you healthy and safe as you monitor a stream begins by taking the right precautions:

- Immunizations:** Before monitoring your stream, check with your doctor or county health department to ensure you are up to date with the appropriate immunizations.
- Foot Protection:** Always wear some type of foot protection. Never go bare foot or wear sandals in a stream. Water boots or old tennis shoes provide good protection from sharp objects in a stream bed.
- Life Jacket:** Always wear a life jacket when the depth of the stream is unknown.
- Bug Repellent:** Use a bug repellent to avoid bites that may lead to serious illness.
- Guard Against Pathogens:** Avoid water contact with your eyes, nose, mouth, or open wounds. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water before rubbing your eyes or bringing your hands to your mouth.

## Sampling Safety

Think safety when monitoring your stream site:

- Use common sense and maintain awareness of your surroundings and potential dangers.
- Never put yourself or anyone else in jeopardy with a potential safety threat.
- Never enter a stream when the current is swift and the depth of water is above your knees. The force from a strong current can easily cause you to lose your balance.
- Use the buddy system. Tell someone where you are sampling and when you are expected to return.

## Sampling Safety

Pay close attention to your surroundings as you monitor your streams.

**Hazardous Waste Drums:** Volunteers may encounter chemical storage drums while in the field. **Do not open, move, or relocate a drum until it is verified by authorities not to contain hazardous waste.** If a volunteer removes a drum from a site, they now assume all responsibility for the drum and its contents, including fees for disposal and environmental risks. This may also interfere with any investigation to hold the appropriate parties accountable. Instead follow the procedures outlined below:

1. Visually check to see if the drum is leaking, seeping gaseous fumes, or bulging.
2. Look for a label. Labels should list the manufacturer, contents, hazards and other important information about the drum's contents. If a label is not present, assume it is hazardous.
3. Take photographs of the drum and label.
4. Mark the area with a bright flag and a "Do Not Disturb" sign.
5. **Contact the 24 hour Environmental Emergency Response hotline at 573-634-2436.**



## METH WASTE

- © Soda bottles, gas cylinders, coffee filters, batteries, matches, aluminum foil, decongestant pill packets, bags of salt



Personal Health

Sampling Safety

Trespassing

## CONTACT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT



Personal Health

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## Sampling Safety

Pay close attention to your surroundings as you monitor your streams.

**Methamphetamine Waste:** Volunteers may encounter common household objects in the woods that are actually methamphetamine waste. If you find soda bottles, gas cylinders, coffee filters, batteries, matches, aluminum foil, decongestant pill packets, or bags of salt, **do not touch or remove.** Instead, document the location and report the waste to your local sheriff, police, or conservation agent.



## Chemical Safety

**Safety Data Sheet:** Information on chemical composition, hazards, disposal, and ecological information of water quality monitoring chemical reagents can be found on Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Every chemical should come with an SDS. These can also be found on the Missouri Stream Team website. Always keep the SDS for all chemicals in an easily accessible location.



### Chemical Precautions:

Keep all chemicals out of reach of children and pets

Wear gloves and safety glasses when handling chemicals

Store chemicals in a temperature controlled setting

Expired powders can be thrown away and liquids can be poured down the drain

### SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

<http://mostreamteam.org/training-materials-and-resources.html>



Information on chemical composition, hazards, disposal, ecological information, etc.



Always keep SDS in an easily accessible location

Chemical Safety
Water Safety
Trespass
Methamphetamine Waste
Waste Drums

### CHEMICAL PRECAUTIONS

Keep all chemicals out of reach of children and pets

Wear gloves and safety glasses when handling chemicals

Store chemicals in a temperature controlled setting

Expired powders can be thrown away and liquids can be poured down the drain

Chemical Safety
Water Safety
Trespass
Methamphetamine Waste
Waste Drums

### TRESPASS

- Volunteers do not have the right to trespass
- Program staff do not have the right to trespass
- Do not be tempted to enter land without the owner's permission



Personal Health | Sampling Safety | **Trespassing**

### THE LAW

- The law for 1<sup>st</sup> degree trespass:
  - Land is posted, fenced, marked and/or you were told you were trespassing, but you still trespassed
- Class B Misdemeanor Penalty
  - Up to 6 months jail
  - Fine not to exceed \$1,000

Personal Health | Sampling Safety | **Trespassing**

### THE LAW

- The law for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree trespass:
  - You were not aware you were on private property, but you still trespassed
- Infraction Penalty
  - Fine possible
  - No jail time

Personal Health | Sampling Safety | **Trespassing**

## Trespassing

Trespassing is against the law and can be dangerous. Stream Team volunteers and program staff do not have the right to trespass on private land. Although it can be tempting, never enter onto land without the owner's permission.

- First-degree trespass (RSMo569.140)** states that a person commits the crime of trespass in the first degree if he or she knowingly enters and remains unlawfully in a building or upon real property. The property must be fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders and notice of trespass is given either by actual communication or by post. The penalty for first-degree trespass is jail or \$500.00 maximum.
- Second-degree trespass (RSMo 569.150)** occurs when a person unknowingly enters unlawfully upon real property of another. In this instance, land does not need to be fenced, nor does the property owner need to post a *No Trespassing* sign. The penalty for second-degree trespass is a \$200.00 maximum fine, but no jail.

## Posted Property

Property owners can protect their land from trespassers in a number of different ways. The most common method is with posted signs. Volunteers should heed any signs such as *No Trespassing*, *No Hunting*, *Posted*, or *Keep Out*.



Additionally, the Purple Paint Statue (RSMo 569.145) specifies how purple paint can be used by landowners to protect their property from trespassers. Even though the law specifies the use of purple paint on a post cap or a vertical line on a tree, volunteers should look for any purple postings such as bandanas, flags, etc. Assume when you see purple, it means keep out!



Acquire landowner permission before you monitor. Explain your objectives and ask them for permission to be on their property. You should do the same when monitoring a stream in a public park or any state land by seeking permission from the appropriate authorities. When seeking permission, you may find it helpful to show your Stream Team Identification Card to landowners.

**POSTED PROPERTY**

- Signs
- Purple Paint
- Ask permission and explain what you are doing
- Carry your Stream Team ID card



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### HOW TO FIND PROPERTY OWNERS

- ⊙ Contact the County Assessor at the County Seat
- ⊙ Contact Staff
- ⊙ Plat Maps
  - Some counties are now available online
  - A list of County Assessors can be found at: [www.countyoffice.org/mo-assessor/](http://www.countyoffice.org/mo-assessor/)



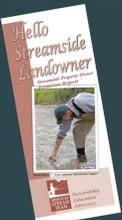
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## How to Find Property Owners

If you are unsure who owns the land, you can easily contact your local County Assessor. They will have a collection of plat maps showing ownership of parcels of land. Some counties even have interactive GIS mapping software online. A list of county assessors can be found at:

[www.moassessorsassn.org/assessors.htm](http://www.moassessorsassn.org/assessors.htm)

### LAND OWNER PERMISSION




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## Landowner Permission

Stream Team volunteers can use the ***Hello Streamside Landowner brochure*** when visiting with property owners. The brochure explains the purpose of the Stream Team and includes a permission slip for landowners to complete. The brochure can be found on the Stream Team website at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org) under the Publications section.



### *Citizens caring for Missouri streams*

Dear Streamside Property Owner,

Landowner: please keep this portion for your records.

As a volunteer member of the Missouri Stream Team Program, I am seeking permission to enter the stream on your property to perform stewardship activities in hopes of improving the health of the stream. The Missouri Stream Team Program is a grass-roots citizen effort to protect Missouri streams by conducting activities such as litter pickups, tree planting, water quality monitoring, storm drain stenciling, and many others.

With your permission, I plan to perform (check all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Pickup            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Monitoring/Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Point Monitoring              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm Drain Stenciling   |  |

I respectfully ask for your permission to access the creek through your property. My access will be during daylight hours only. If necessary, access may be limited to times of your choosing. I fully understand that trash disposal is my responsibility, and I promise to be respectful of your property rights. I also understand that as the property owner, you may revoke permission at any time for any reason.

I will share with you the results of our activities (water quality data, trash collected, etc.) after our work is completed. This information is also shared with the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of the reporting requirements of the Program.

If this is acceptable, please provide your contact information on the Landowner Permission Slip at right. Thank you for your support of the Missouri Stream Team Program.

Sincerely,

Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Team Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *Landowner Permission Slip*

Stream Team member: please keep this portion.

I, as property owner, permit Missouri Stream Team (Number/Name) \_\_\_\_\_

to access the stream adjoining my property for the purpose of:

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Pickup                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm Drain Stenciling              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Monitoring/Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Point Monitoring              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                         |

and with the following conditions as applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I also reserve the right to revoke permission at any time for any reason.



Landowner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_